

# Advisory Council Notes

Date: July 8, 2020 6 P.M.

Location: Virtual Meeting



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Members Present: Mr. Rodney Poole, Chair  
Mr. Burt Pinnock, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Jonathan Bibbs  
Ms. Mayda Colón  
Ms. Cyane Crump  
Ms. LaToya Gray  
Mr. Bernard Harkless  
Ms. Ashley Hawkins  
Ms. Joyce Knight  
Mr. T. Preston Lloyd  
Ms. Louise Lockett Gordon  
Mr. Jer'Mykeal McCoy  
Ms. Jennifer Mullen  
Ms. Kendra Norrell  
Mr. Damian Pitt  
Ms. Olivya Wilson  
Mr. Ted Ukrop  
Ms. Meredith Weiss

Members Absent: Mr. Max Hepp-Buchanan, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Monica Lozano  
Ms. Gray O'Dwyer

Staff Present: Mr. Mark Olinger, Director for Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR)  
Ms. Kimberly Chen, Office of the DCAO Economic Development and Planning  
Mr. Brian Mercer, PDR  
Mr. William Palmquist, PDR  
Ms. Maritza Pechin, AECOM/PDR  
Ms. Marianne Pitts, PDR

## 6:00 PM Call to Order

Mr. Poole called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Pitts announced that this meeting of the Richmond 300 Advisory Council was being held as an electronic meeting pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance 2020-093. She alerted the public that there will be an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Poole asked for comments on the May 13, 2020, Meeting Notes. No corrections or edits were presented by the AC.

## **Director's Report**

Mr. Olinger shared that July 14<sup>th</sup> is the next public meeting for the Coliseum Framework Plan. At this meeting, the previous survey results will be shared and proposed alternatives will be presented for review and comment. The meeting will be virtual, and the link will be provided at richmond300.com.

## **Presentations & Discussion**

### *Plan Changes*

Ms. Pechin presented on the changes to the plan from Community Consultation #2 to Community Consultation #3.

Ms. Crump commented regarding the existing timeline for Community Consultation #3. She noted that there is a lot going on in the City with the pandemic and the current civil unrest. She noted people have had a hard time focusing attention on this plan. She stated that this timeline is ambitious and that she does not believe PDR and the AC are going to get thoughtful comments during this time period. She noted that people need more time to digest this plan during this tumultuous period, and that virtual engagement is less meaningful.

Mr. Poole responded that more comments are being provided at the virtual meetings than the previous in-person meetings. He agreed that there has been a great deal of upheaval in the city, but noted that the public is much attuned that this process is on a timeline.

Ms. Mullen agreed with Mr. Poole and noted that there were more participants at the virtual meetings including participants new to Richmond 300.

Mr. Pitt agreed with Mr. Poole and Ms. Mullen that the timeline should not be altered.

Ms. Gray noted that as someone who has attended almost all of the virtual summits, she has been amazed with the amount of engagement between residents and planners.

Mr. Bibbs stated that he believes the plan should move forward with the existing timeline. Mr. McCoy, Ms. Colon, and Mr. Lloyd also agreed that the plan should move forward with the existing timeline.

Mr. Pitt had another comment not related to the timeline. He noted that he has heard Southside residents concerned with Manchester being identified as a part of Downtown. Ms. Pechin responded she had not heard this concern but will note it.

## **Public Comment**

*Open time was provided for the general public to comment on the draft Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth Master Plan.*

Mr. David Wright, Randolph resident, stated that Randolph should be designated residential not neighborhood mixed-use because it is residential neighborhood with no commercial uses. He noted the plan should be responsive to the neighborhood's concerns.

A letter was read from Mr. Charles Pool, Oregon Hill resident. His letter noted the Oregon Hill should be designated residential not neighborhood mixed-use because it is a historic residential neighborhood with buildings of a maximum height of 35 feet and limited commercial uses.

Mr. Philip Hart, president of the Westhampton Citizens Association, expressed concerns with multi-family units within the single-family residential neighborhoods in the Near West End. His concerns included:

- Residential Future Land Use Category:
  - What is the difference between secondary and primary uses?
  - Concern with increased density within a ¼ mile of transit corridor as the increased density will fall into single-family neighborhoods. He recommended that increased density should be near transit stops not along transit lines.
  - ADUs should be limited
- Corridor Mixed-Use Land Use Category
  - OK with residential uses by-right
  - Concern with permitted heights especially within the Westhampton node description.

Mr. Sebastian Shetty, staff from the Partnership for Smarter Growth (PSG), stated:

- Plan strategies need to target Downtown parking issues
- Have low income residents engaged in the process? Can you cross check who has provided comments with income?
- Increasing height and density by right would limit density bonuses which could be used as a tool to get affordable housing

Ms. Jeanie McCain, an Oregon Hill Resident, noted that Oregon Hill residents do not want tall buildings on every corner. Mr. Olinger responded that nothing the plan states the desire to have an 8-story building on every corner.

Mr. Benjamin Butterworth, a Church Hill resident, shared that he has concerns with permitted building heights. He noted that the building at 2525 Main Street was a taller building with a modern style. He referenced a letter provided to the Richmond 300 team regarding the view from Libbie Hill Park.

Mr. Joe Andrews, Westhampton resident, stated that once the master plan is adopted, it will be the guide for the future of the city. He noted that it will take 3-5 years for a new zoning ordinance; until then, people will use the plan to defend their SUPs.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Poole thanked the public for their comments. He reviewed the process timeline with the AC members.

Mr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.